

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Hyde County**

**Emergency Meeting – Hurricane Earl  
September 1, 2010**

Chairman Tom Davis called the Emergency Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:00AM on Wednesday, September 1, 2010 in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room, and the Ocracoke School Commons area using electronic conferencing equipment. The following members were present on the mainland: Commissioners Tom Davis, Sharon Spencer, Anson Byrd and Ken Collier; Deputy Clerk to the Board Justin Gibbs; and members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner Darlene Styron; Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board David Smitherman; Deputy Clerk to the Board Jamie Tunnell; and members of the public.

Following the opening prayer given by Commissioner Ken Collier, the meeting was called to order.

Chairman Davis stated that the purpose of this emergency meeting was to discuss concerns relating to Hurricane Earl, to discuss an amendment to the state of emergency proclamation, and to award a debris removal contract.

Chairman Davis asked that Commissioner Styron and the Interim County Manager give an update regarding the protective measures that had been taken thus far in preparation for the potential landfall of Hurricane Earl. Commissioner Styron stated that they had conducted several meetings in regards to Hurricane Earl and decided to evacuate Ocracoke Island at approximately 6:00 PM on August 31, 2010. Commissioner Styron stated that the evacuation began at 5:00AM this morning and that NC Highway Patrol was assisting the NCDOT Ferry Division with the evacuation of the island. Commissioner Styron said that a shelter had been opened in Pitt County for the people that were evacuating. Mr. Smitherman stated that the Reverse 9-1-1 System had been activated this morning to notify the occupants of the island that a mandatory evacuation had been declared. The Interim County Manager informed the Commissioners that he would be remaining on Ocracoke for the duration of the event and that Lindsey Mooney would be acting as incident commander for the mainland. Mr. Smitherman further stated that both the Ocracoke and Mainland Emergency Operations Centers were activated. Mr. Smitherman reported that a media and public information line had been established and would be referenced on all of the public advisories. The Interim County Manager informed the Commissioners that County services would be provided on the island until at least noon and that they were working to suspend all flights into the Ocracoke Airport. Mr. Smitherman stated that they were working with Dare and Carteret Counties in order

to make informed decisions about when ferry operations should be halted to the ferry terminals within their respective counties.

David Wheldon, NCEM Regional Coordinator, informed the Commissioners that Governor Beverly Perdue wanted to fly into Swan Quarter to speak with the elected officials and the people evacuating the island in support of the County's mitigative actions. Mr. Wheldon stated that he would inform the Commissioners of the specifics regarding the Governor's visit.

The Interim County Manager reported that the State requested that an incident management team be sent to Hyde County to assist with the EOC operations and relieve County Staff as necessary during the event.

Interim Emergency Management Coordinator Lindsey Mooney informed the Board that the Mainland EOC was operational and that it was currently staffed with six County employees.

Commissioner Spencer asked how many people were estimated to remain on the island during the hurricane. Commissioner Styron stated that one of the realty companies on the island had an emergency notification system and at the time the mandatory evacuation was ordered they were forty-five percent occupied. Commissioner Styron further stated that the referenced realty company forces all of their occupants to leave and that there was really no way to determine how many of the Ocracoke residents would remain on the island. Mr. Smitherman said that it seemed as if most of the occupants of the island were heeding the evacuation notification.

Chairman Davis asked if there were any amendments to the state of emergency proclamation. Mr. Smitherman replied that the only amendment that may be requested would be the restriction of alcohol sales for tomorrow evening after hours, but he did not think there was a strong opinion on the subject.

Mr. Smitherman stated that the only pressing issue was the debris removal contract; he said that it was originally scheduled to be on the September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Agenda, but with the approaching storm that the process had to be expedited.

Commissioner Collier made a motion to award the debris removal contract to J.B. Coxwell contingent on the County Attorney's approval. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

Commissioner Spencer asked that the Interim Emergency Management Coordinator to give an update on how the agencies were cooperating on the mainland.



Mr. Mooney stated that thus far on the mainland, he felt that the citizens were relaxed and considered this to be strictly an Ocracoke event. Mr. Mooney reported that he was urging people to take the storm seriously because it was going to pass dangerously close to the Outer Banks and the effects could impede emergency response. The Interim Emergency Management Coordinator informed the Commissioners that he had been in contact with the nursing home and that they were very leery about the potential effects of the storm. Mr. Mooney stated that he would be conducting a conference call with Cross Creek around noon to determine if an evacuation would be necessary.

Commissioner Spencer asked if the hurricane took an unexpected turn, if there would be time to evacuate the nursing home. Mr. Mooney replied that he had to make a decision by noon regarding the evacuation of that facility and that he was in close coordination with the nursing home. The Interim Emergency Management Coordinator stated that if they started evacuating the facility at noon they would be able to have the residents out by 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Collier asked if there were any problems contacting the medical flight services in the area, because he had been told that Eastcare did not have the County's frequencies in their radios. Mr. Mooney replied that the instance that he was referencing was an unusual situation because Eastcare utilized a back-up helicopter during that call and it was not equipped with the proper equipment. Mr. Mooney further stated that he had instructed the EMS staff in the EOC to contact Eastcare by radio today to make sure that radio communications could be established if necessary.

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to adjourn the Emergency Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron

Nays – None

The Emergency Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners adjourned at 9:30AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2010.

  
Justin L. Gibbs, Deputy Clerk – Hyde County Board of Commissioners

  
Tom Davis, Chairman – Hyde County Board of Commissioners

